

JUL 10 2007

Serial No. 09/654,501
Docket No. T36-124990M/RS
NGB.185

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REMARKS

Applicants concurrently file herewith a Petition for Extension of Time, and corresponding extension of time fee, for a one-month extension of time.

Claims 89-92 and 99-106 are all of the claims presently pending in the application. Claims 108 and 109 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. The remaining claims have not been amended by the present Amendment.

Entry of this Amendment is believed proper since no new issues are being presented to the Examiner, which would require further consideration and/or search and the Amendment reduces the number of issues that would be presented on Appeal.

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 89-92 and 99-106 are allowed.

Claims 108 and 109 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by, or in the alternative under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Borner et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,234,648; hereinafter "Borner").

While Applicants maintain that claims 108 and 109 are patentable over the applied reference, merely in an effort to speed prosecution and to place the Application in condition for immediate allowance, Applicants have canceled claims 108 and 109.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that claims 89-92 and 99-106, all of the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone

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number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: July 10, 2007

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FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that I am filing this paper via facsimile, to Group Art Unit 2815,
at (571) 273-8300, on July 10, 2007.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: July 10, 2007

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